

REMARKS

In the above-noted Office Action, claim 9 was objected to as having no physical separation from claim 10. Claims 1-3, 16, 18, 21, and 27 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) given Hamalainen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,217) ("Hamalainen"). Claims 4-12, 19, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) given Hamalainen in view of Kapoor et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,795,424) ("Kapoor"). Claims 13-15, 17, 20, 25, and 26 were objected to as depending upon rejected base claims but were otherwise found to be allowable. Claims 28-38 were allowed. The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and requests reconsideration.

In the claims submitted with this response, a line now separates claim 9 from claim 10. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the opportunity to correct this informality and respectfully submits that the claims are now in suitable condition to support allowance.

Independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) given Hamalainen. Dependent claims 13, 16, 20, and 25, however, were found to contain allowable subject matter. Pursuant to this response, claim 1 has been amended to now include the subject matter of dependent claim 13 (with dependent claim 13 having now been canceled). The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, now includes previously identified allowable subject matter and may itself be passed to allowance.

The Applicant has also amended dependent claims 16, 20, and 25 to each now present, in independent claim format, the recitations of previously presented claim 1. In each case, the resultant composite claim now includes subject matter previously found allowable. The Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 16, 20, and 25 are each now independently allowable.

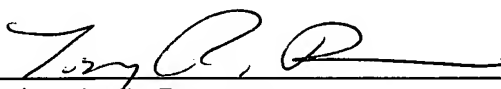
Claims 2-12, 14-15, 17-19, 21-24 and 26-27 are ultimately dependent upon one of the independent claims identified above. In addition, these claims introduce additional content that, particularly when considered in context with the claim or claims from which they depend, constitutes additional incremental patentable subject matter. For all these reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that these dependent claims may be passed to allowance as well.

Application No. 10/035,039
Amendment dated February 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 16, 2004

Claims 28-38 were previously found allowable. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for this finding.

There being no other objections to or rejections of the claims, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-12 and 14-38 are now in suitable condition to support allowance and the same is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Timothy R. Baumann
Registration No. 40,502

Date: Feb. 15, 2005

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
Suite 1600
120 South LaSalle
Chicago, Illinois 60603-3406
Telephone: (312) 577-7000
Facsimile: (312) 577-7007

406690